

March 17, 2010

HEALTH CARE DEBATE ***UPDATE***

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator. I am writing to share the latest news regarding the ongoing health care debate in Washington. If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at http://LeMieux.Senate.gov You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via You Tube, Twitter, and Facebook.







State of Play

As of this writing, the House of Representatives is poised to send their health care bill to President Obama for him to sign into law. Oddly enough, this will have happened without members of the House of Representatives voting on the bill. This is not the way a health care law should be enacted - especially one affecting all Americans and about one-sixth of our economy.

This process is flawed and Americans have the right to be concerned. Click the video below to hear my views.



I support real health care reform that will reduce costs. I am opposing the bill that is about to become law because it cuts half a trillion dollars from Medicare and raises half a trillion dollars in taxes to pay for a new entitlement program. We can't afford the programs we have, much less the programs those in the majority want to create. I agree with most Americans who want Congress to start over with a step-by-step process where all ideas are brought to the table and have the opportunity for a straight up-or-down vote.

Most people can agree on the major elements of how to reform our health care system. We should target those areas of broad agreement, bring sensible proposals to our respective chambers for debate and a vote, and send those reforms to the White House to be signed into law. The more controversial elements of proposed reforms should be treated the same way.

10 Myths of Proposed Reform

Hindering Washington's ability to come together on reforming our health care system is the lack of factual information. Earlier this week, I spoke about the 10 myths that have become part of the health care debate as if they are fact.

Click the video below to hear the most popular myths busted or <u>click here</u> to read a summary.



As long as this debate continues, know that I will continue to represent your views.

Your Views



Last week, I conducted a town hall meeting on health care at the Beach Community Center in Ft. Lauderdale. This was a great opportunity to hear your views on how Washington should proceed on making quality health care more affordable for more people.

Overwhelmingly, Floridians agree we have to do something to lower the cost of health care. There was broad agreement at this gathering that we need to start

First, we should fix the programs we already have. I have introduced a proposal to curb Medicare waste, fraud and abuse that could save \$20 billion a year and help Medicare remain solvent for our seniors. We should allow people to shop across state lines for insurance, let small businesses pool together to achieve greater buying power, and pursue legal reforms so that junk law suits don't drive up costs.

If the President and the leaders in Congress are serious about passing healt! h care reform that the American people can have faith in, we should work on this plan in a step-by-step fashion to increase availability and lower the costs of health care for all Americans.

Employment Opportunities

I know Floridians are facing difficult times and that is why I developed a multifaceted effort to help Floridians find jobs, create jobs and increase their incomes. Our office will put Floridians in touch with existing programs and groups so that we can all work together toward job recovery.

All this week, Workforce Central Florida is hosting a virtual job fair at http://www.WorkForceCentralFlorida.com/jobfair This is an online event connecting job seekers with potential employers. This virtual job fair also allows those seeking employment to use existing resources to help them create or update a resume, explore potential opportunities, and research prospective employers.

I am proud to partner with Workforce Central Florida on this virtual job fair. You can also visit my Web site for more information and upcoming events. Please click here to go to http://LeMieux.Senate.gov

Please stay tuned to this e-newsletter and our <u>Web site</u> for future opportunities throughout Florida.